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Sent: 12/13/2018 2:53:37 PM
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Subject: FYI: Inside EPA yesterday on IRIS FA assessment and OLEM/OCSPS confirmations

<https://insideepa.com/daily-feed/markey-hints-wright-may-win-approval-without-formaldehyde-study>

THE DAILY FEED

Markey hints Wright may win approval without formaldehyde study

December 12, 2018

Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) is reiterating his push to force EPA to release its long-delayed assessment of the risks of formaldehyde, suggesting that Peter Wright, the Trump administration's nominee to lead EPA's waste office, may win Senate approval even though the agency has not followed through on its pledge to release the assessment. "No matter the final disposition of Mr. Wright's nomination, the EPA should keep its promise and move forward with the release of the long-overdue formaldehyde report," Markey says in a [Dec. 10 press statement](#).

"EPA has succumbed to pressure from industry for far too long, endangering the public's health. I urge the EPA to ensure that there are no more efforts to delay or block the publication of this assessment," he added.

Markey's spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

While [Wright's nomination was approved](#) by the Senate environment committee earlier this year, the full Senate has yet to confirm him. Republicans on the committee -- on which Markey also serves -- complained at a hearing last September that [Democrats are blocking Wright](#) from confirmation, but Democrats denied they have placed a hold on Wright. A spokesman for EPW Republicans tells *Inside EPA* that Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) has placed a hold on Wright.

Markey explains in the statement that during Wright's confirmation process, "EPA made a commitment to abide by the normal [Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)] process and timeline."

Markey's statement, however, suggests that something has changed with the status of EPA's commitment.

Last May, Markey and Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Tom Carper (D-DE), the committee's ranking member, wrote a letter to former Administrator Scott Pruitt [urging him to release](#) the draft assessment. They said they had learned the draft was completed "during the fall of 2017," and reiterated EPA's controversial finding in a 2010 draft assessment that formaldehyde exposure can result in leukemia.

Markey has also sought to garner a commitment from EPA on the formaldehyde assessment in the ongoing process to advance the nomination of Alexandra Dunn, Trump's nominee to lead EPA's toxics office. [Dunn sidestepped](#) Markey's request during her Nov. 29 confirmation hearing, telling Markey she would "immediately find out the status of the formaldehyde work, why it is not completed along the time frame that you had heard it should be and getting right back to you what time frame it will be on."

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